

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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P R 141740Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9957

INFO US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 648

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 7544

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, IT, EC

SUBJ: GATT REVIEW OF ITALIAN PRIOR DEPOSIT SCHEME

REF: (A) ROME 14814 NOTAL (B) STATE 223115

1. EMBASSY UNABLE RAISE POINTS IN REF B WITH APPROPRIATE
GOI OFFICIALS UNTIL EVENING SEPT. 14, WHEN CALL MADE BY ECMIN
ON AMBASSADOR MONDELLO (DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, MFA) AND MINISTER CALAMIA (MFA COORDINATOR FOR EC/GATT
AFFAIRS). MONDELLO WAS OUT OF ROME UNTIL MORNING SEPT. 14,
AND THE TWO KEY OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (TRIOLI
AND SIMEONE) BOTH OUT OF ROME UNTIL LATER IN WEEK.

2. DISCUSSION WITH MONDELLO AND CALAMIA, DURING WHICH ECMIN
PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE BASED ON REF B, QUITE SIMILAR TO SEPT. 9
CONVERSATION WITH CALAMIA. MONDELLO TOOK LINE THAT ITALIAN
PRIOR DEPOSIT SCHEME WAS MONETARY MEASURE AND THAT GOI HAD
FULFILLED ITS OBLIGATIONS INSOFAR AS GATT NOTIFICATION WAS
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CONCERNED. CALAMIA ADDED STATEMENT THAT SINCE NO TRADE DAMAGE

HAS BEEN SHOWN, THERE WAS NO FURTHER OBLIGATION FOR ITALY TO DISCUSS MATTER IN GATT. WHILE MONDELLO TOOK NOTE OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO MAINTENANCE OF PRECEDENT OF REFERRAL OF SUCH MEASURES TO DOP COMMITTEE, HE FELT THAT ISSUE WAS OUTWEIGHED BY NON-APPLICABILITY TO "MONETARY MEASURES".

3. MONDELLO AND CALAMIA ALSO CLOUDED ISSUE BY NOTING THAT COMMON EC POSITION ON GATT HANDLING OF ITALIAN PRIOR DEPOSIT SCHEME WAS BEING DISCUSSED TODAY (SEPT. 14) BY 113 COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS. THEY PROMISED TO ADVISE US OF RESULTS OF THAT MEETING, BUT EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN ITALIAN POSITION AND LEFT IMPRESSION THEY FULLY EXPECTED EC TO SUPPORT ITALY. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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04 MAY 2006

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